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PROCEEDINGS AND PAPERS.

QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING, held at the Society's Apartments, William-street, Kilkenny, on Wednesday, October 17th (by adjournment from the 3rd), 1866.

JOHN PRENDERGAST, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, in the Chair.

The following new Members were elected :—

Robert Gordon, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, 23, Hatch-street, Dublin; and Edward Popham, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, Catherine-street, Waterford: proposed by C. H. Foot, Esq., Barrister-at-Law.

Captain J. H. Laurence-Archer, Staff Officer of Pensioners, Carlow: proposed by the Rev. J. Graves.

Rev. Michael Ryan, R.C.C., Knocklong, Kilmallock: proposed by the Rev. J. O'Carroll.

Charles Brown, Esq., Brook House, Chester: proposed by J. G. Gibbon, Esq., Barrister-at-Law.

Robert S. Longworth Dames, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, 30, Upper Merrion-street, Dublin: proposed by William Anderson, Esq., Barrister-at-Law.

Matthew R. Weld, Esq., Colaghmore House, Callan; Colles Litchfield Anderson, Esq., L. R. C. P.; L. R. C. S. Edinburgh, &c. &c., The North Dispensary, Vauxhall-road, Liverpool; and Mons. A. D'Allamond, Palmerstown House, Kilkenny: proposed by Mr. J. G. A. Prim.

W. Prittie Harris, Esq., Lakeview, Blackrock, Cork; and Thomas Powell Evan, Esq., 32, Grand Parade, Cork: proposed by R. Day, Esq.

William Kenealy, Esq., T. C., Kilkenny: proposed by Mr. J. Hogan.

John O'Brien, Esq., Town Clerk, Waterford; and William Carroll, Esq., Glentworth-street, Limerick: proposed by Maurice Lenihan, Esq.

Frank Shepperd, Esq., Solicitor, St. Cronan's, Roscrea: proposed by the Rev. J. Rogers.

James Kealy, Esq., Bantry: proposed by the Rev. G. Vance.

Robert M'Donnell, Esq., Fairy Hill, Limerick: proposed by J. S. Sloane, Esq.

John Smyth, Jun., Esq., Rathcourcey, Ballenacurra, county of Cork: proposed by Thomas Wigmore, Esq.

The Rev. John Kerivan, R. C. C., New Ross: proposed by Dr. Keating.

The Rev. James Lyng, R. C. C., Poulfur, Fethard, county of Wexford: proposed by the Rev. John Kerivan.

The following presentations were received, and thanks voted to the donors:—

By the Cambrian Archæological Association: "Archæologia Cambrensis," Third Series, Nos. 48 and 49.

By the Royal Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland: their "Journal," No. 90.

By the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire: their "Transactions," New Series, Vol. V.

By the Surrey Archæological Society: their "Collections," Vol. III.

By the Royal Institution of Cornwall: their "Journal," No. 6.

By the Geological and Polytechnic Society of the West Riding of Yorkshire: their "Report and Proceedings," 1864-5.

By the Philosophic and Literary Society of Leeds: their "Report," 1864-5, and "Catalogue" of their Library.

By the Publisher: "The Gentleman's Magazine" for July, August, and September, 1866.

By the Publisher: "The Builder," Nos. 1214-1227, inclusive.

By the Author: "Cashel, of the Kings, a History of the City of Cashel," by John Davis White, Part II.

By the Author: "Observations on an unpublished Essay on Ireland, by Sir William Petty, A. D., 1687;" by W. H. Hardinge, Esq.

By J. Carnegie, Esq.: a bronze celt.

By M. W. Hilliard: a modern Tradesman's token; obverse, JOSEPH HELEN, CORK, a shamrock—Reverse, ONE FARTHING TOKEN.

By the Rev. Richard Galvin, P. P., Rathdrum, county of Wicklow: a rubbing of the inscription on an old bell belonging to the Protestant Parish Church, Rathdrum, of which the annexed wood-cut is a facsimile.

✠ IOH ÄS: SEXTEVN: ME: FIERI: FECIT:

✠ IOHANNES: SEXTEVN: ME: FIERI: FECIT:

The Rev. Mr. Galvin stated that, according to local tradition, this bell had originally belonged to the far-famed Abbey of Glendalough, from which it was removed to Rathdrum. He suggested

that John Sexton would, perhaps, be found to have been the name of one of the Bishops or Abbots of Glendalough, in which case the tradition would have strong confirmation.

The Rev. Mr. Graves said, he had taken Mr. Galvin's hint, and investigated the subject as fully as was in his power, but he could not find the name given in the inscription amongst those on record as connected officially with the ancient ecclesiastical establishment of Glendalough; although it frequently occurs amongst the ancient inhabitants of Dublin. But, apart altogether from the tradition connecting it with Glendalough, this bell was most interesting, as probably the oldest inscribed bell in Ireland, at least so far as was known. The subject of inscriptions on bells had not been at all investigated in this country as deeply as in England, and it was well to see the Society's members now beginning to take it up. He did not know of any inscribed bells of equal age in the county of Kilkenny. It was on record that old bells belonging to Callan church, and the church of St. Mary's in the city of Kilkenny, had been melted down towards the casting of the peal of St. Canice's Cathedral in the latter portion of the seventeenth century.

Mr. Prim remarked that it was curious to find that there were two old inscribed bells in the county of Wicklow, and both, according to tradition, brought to their present situations from a distance. He alluded, besides the Rathdrum bell, to that in the market house of Dunlavin, which had been removed thither from the Black Abbey, Kilkenny.

The Chairman referred to the tradition prevalent alike in Kilkenny and in the county of Wicklow, as to a peal of bells having been removed from the Black Abbey, Kilkenny, to Blesinton church. The present peal of bells there could not have been those referred to in the tradition—unless they were re-cast—as they were the gift of Primate Boyle.

The Rev. John F. Shearman, R. C. C., Howth, made the following communication :—

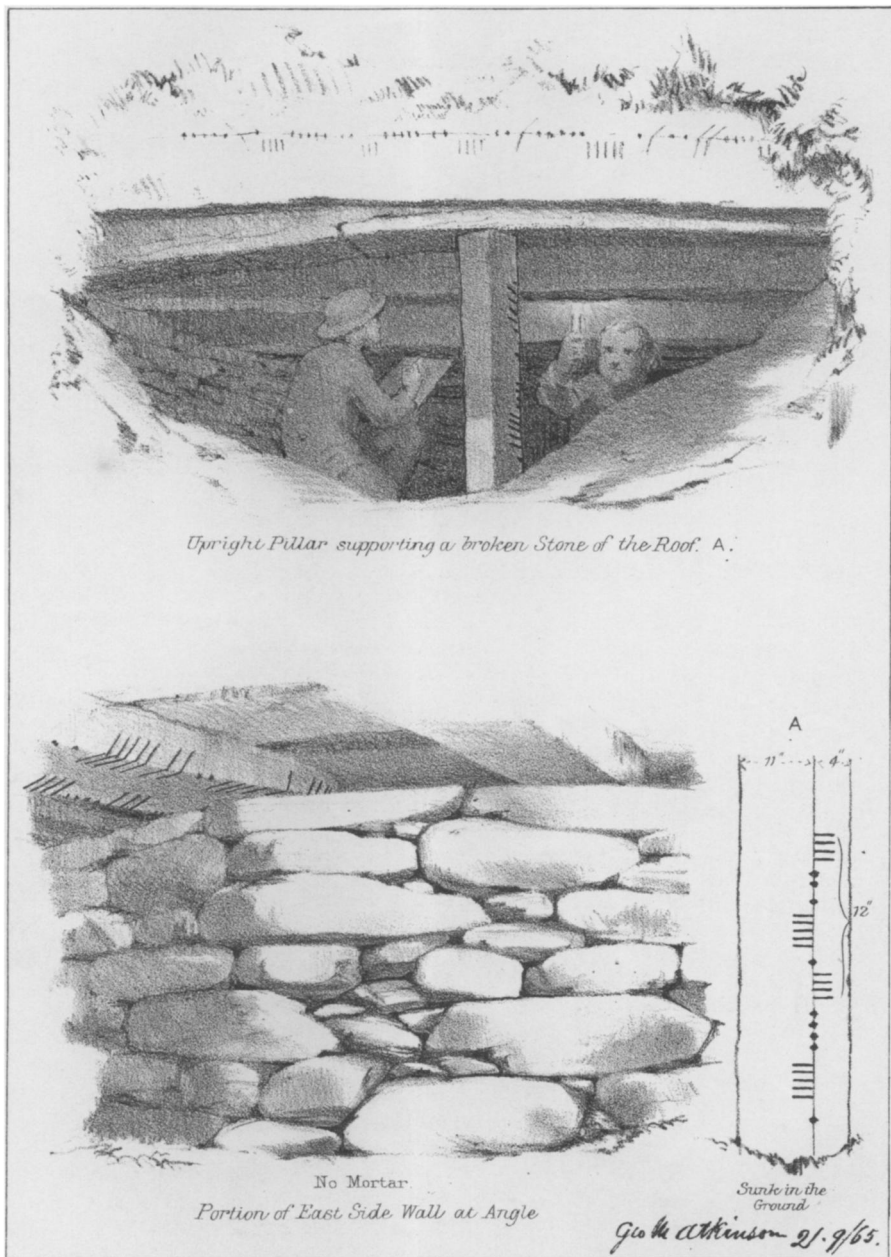
“In a paragraph in the ‘Freeman's Journal’ of the 11th of April, 1865, headed ‘Treasure trove,’ copied from the ‘Wexford People,’ is given an account of the discovery of some old coins on Saline beach under Kilgorman church, near Courtown Harbour, county of Wexford. As the writer of this notice does not seem to know much about these coins from his imperfect description of them, a more detailed account of their discovery, with a descriptive list of them, may be of some numismatic value to the members of the Kilkenny and South-East of Ireland Archæological Society. On or about the 25th of March, 1865, two children, named Kavanagh, were playing on the beach, sliding down the dunes or sand hills which flank the coast from Arklow Rock to Courtown. The friction wore away the sand, exposing an earthen jar or crock of very coarse material, with a long narrow neck, the side of which was broken from the operation described above, out of which rolled a number of

glittering coins. The children gathered them up, and brought them home to their father, who showed them to the Rev. James Dunphy, C. C., Arklow, who promptly notified to me the discovery, and some time after sent the coins to me, to dispose of them for the benefit of Hugh Kavanagh, the father of the children, whose innocent gambols brought to light a collection so very numerous and interesting. The coins, numbering about 460, not 600, as the 'Wexford People' stated, duly reached me. There were not many varieties, as will appear from the accompanying list. A selection of the best and most perfect specimens was made, some of which I bought for my own collection; more of them I disposed of to other collectors at a higher rate than I would have got if they were destined to the melting pot;

Coins found at Kilgorman, County of Wexford, March 25, 1865.

EDWARD IV. GROATS.	Number of Coins.	HENRY VI., HALF GROATS.	Number of Coins.
A groat, Rose and Sun, a Cross-patee in Rose,	1	Dublin three-crown,	16
Mintage, London,	3	Canterbury arched crown,	7
„ Dublin,	38	York, cusped circle,	7
„ Waterford,	11	Do. arched crown,	5
„ Limerick,	3	London,	29
„ Trim,	12	Do. arched crown,	1
„ Drogheda,	16		65
Half groat, London,	1		
	85	RICHARD III. GROATS.	
HENRY VI. GROATS.		Obverse—three-crown, Reverse,	
Mintage, Dublin, Cusped circle,	64	Royal Arms in a plain circle,	4
„ do. Plain circle, .	40	three-crown, do., half groat,	1
„ do. Arched crown,	29	Drogheda groat. Reverse—	
	133	Rose. Obverse—Cross, . .	1
		An English Episcopal penny,	1
		much worn,	1
			7
HENRY VI. THREE-CROWN GROATS.			
Dublin Mint, plain circle, . .	94	HENRY VII. SHILLING (ENGLISH).	
Do. do. Obverse—Shield in		One only in the find,	1
quatrefoil. Reverse—Tres-	29		
sured h under crown, . .		HENRY VIII. SHILLINGS.	
Do. do. Obverse in Plain		Side face, &c.,	13
circle, Royal Arms. Kil-		Eboraci, with T. W.,	1
dare Arms on either side in		Half groat, Eboraci, T. W., .	1
a small shield. Reverse—	25		15
Cusped, three-crown, . .	1		
London groat, arched crown, .		CHARLES DUKE OF BURGUNDY,	
	149	COUNT OF FLANDERS,	4

while the worn, clipped, and more common varieties were sold at Mr. Donegan's as old silver, the weight of the whole 'find' being about 27 ounces, which brought a fair sum of money—a real Godsend to poor Kavanagh, who was at that time in a very needy condition. How these coins came to



OGHAM CHARACTERS .

*Inscribed on the Stones forming the Roof of a Cave, in the Demesne of
Dunloe Castle, Killarney.*

be concealed here is a matter of mere conjecture. The silver shillings of Henry VIII. are the latest in point of time; and, as there are none of the later and more debased specimens of his coinage, the time of the concealment of the treasure must be referred to the early part of his reign. The position of the 'crock' near the top of the hill does not suggest its being cast ashore from some wreck; so that the object of concealment, if not for security, must ever remain a mystery. On p. 522 will be found a list, describing the varieties, mintage, and peculiarities of each coin, together with the number of each variety."

Mr. George M. Atkinson contributed the following notice of the Ogham cave at Dunloe, county of Kerry:—

"During one of those agreeable journeys, 'combining pleasure with business,' that it is the privilege of an artist to make, I visited that very beautiful place, Killarney, in the autumn of 1865, and was taken by a guide to see some Oghams in a chamber near the Gap of Dunloe. Our late valued member, John Windele, in his work on the South of Ireland, p. 393, records the discovery of this chamber in 1838, by workmen constructing a sunk fence in one of the fields of the demesne of Dunloe Castle, adjoining the road to the Gap. The walls are constructed in a very primitive manner with uncemented stones, inclining outwards; and the roof is formed of long stones resting on each side of the walls, five of which are inscribed with Ogham characters. See Plate II.¹ Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6, representing the stones, in plan, as if the earth above them was removed; an upright stone, similarly marked, stands in the entrance of the cave, and aids in supporting a broken stone of the roof. See Plate I.

"In the passage were found several human skulls and bones, which the proprietor, Mr. Mahony, caused to be collected, put into a chest, and placed in the extremity of the chamber. At the time of my visit this chest was covered with earth, and it is to be regretted that there is no mention made of the positions in which its contents were found. The late Mr. A. Abell, of Cork, shortly after the discovery, visited the cave, and took copies of the inscriptions under very considerable difficulties (which I also experienced); and, according to Mr. Windele's reading, that on the upright stone admits of two interpretations, by reason of the occurrence of the letter called *queirt* or *ceart*, which, amongst Irish Scholars, is variously read as *cu* or *ar*.

According to the first power the inscription would read,

‘*A-cu-e-s-a-cu-s,*’

which, formed into words, may possibly mean—‘His foot was as that of a hound.’ But, giving the *queirt* the force of *ar*, it might in that case read ‘*Ares Arus,*’ i. e. ‘the grave or resting place of Arus.’ The inscription on the first stone, No. 1, above the breach in the roof which forms the present entrance, contains the following twenty letters:—

‘*d-e-g-o-m-a-ar-i-m-o-c-o-i-t-o-i-c-a-ea-i,*’

¹ The members are indebted to Mr. Atkinson's liberality for the plates illustrating this paper, which were drawn on stone by himself.

which the Rev. M. Horgan combines into the following words :—

'deg-omaa-i-mocoit-o-icaeai,'

which he interprets :—

'Omar of Hy-Maghgoit died of grief.'

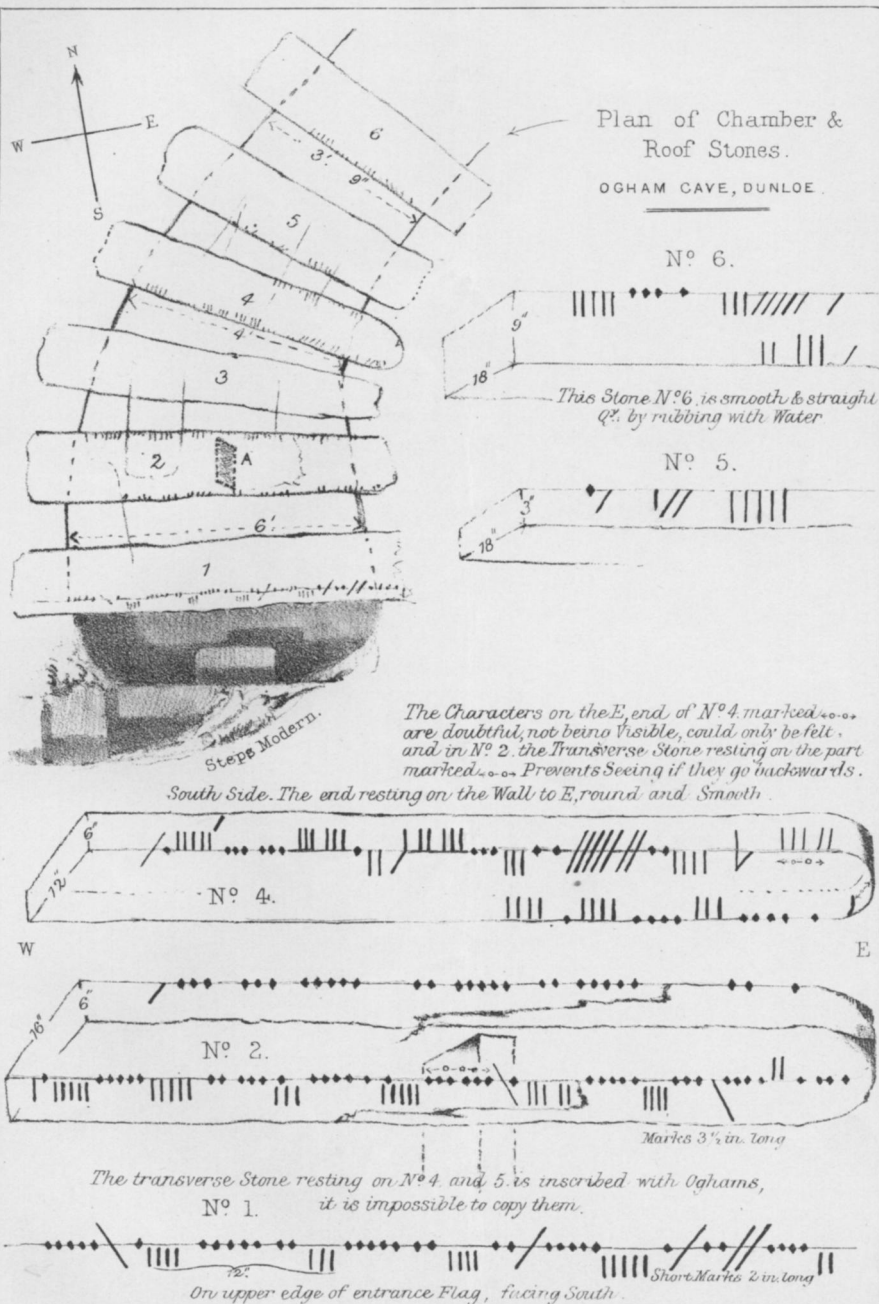
Mr. Windele then proceeds to give a very interesting and learned account of Oghams, and states his opinion on the great antiquity of such caves, as testified by the Pelasgic features of their walls, &c. &c. He records the localities and objects in and on which Oghams have been found—all having a Pagan aspect—cemeteries of unmistakeable character, including the burial places of unbaptized children; the antriles or crypts of ancient Raths, and the old obeliscal pillars called Dallans; and cites the opinions of General Vallancey, and others, on the connexion between the Oghams of Ireland and the cuneiform characters of Babylon and the ancient cities of Persia.

“There can be no question, I think, that the Oghams in their present form are (from their construction, each group stopping at the number of five) undoubtedly the result of a regular preconcerted design, and developed system. But I cannot agree with the idea of their being an invention of the monks of the Middle Ages, because the positions in which Ogham inscriptions are found are against that supposition. They are used as common building stones in the construction of what are allowed by all inquirers to be the oldest Christian edifices in Ireland; as at Ardmore, St. Declan's Oratory, the ancient church of Kilrush, close to Dungarvan, &c. The fact of a holy well, 'Toberchrist,' being close to the Dunloe cave does not prove its Christianity, as we know how artfully the early Christian missionaries in Ireland engrafted their system on Pagan prejudices, and contented themselves with substituting objects of Christian reverence for those they found.

“In the Royal Irish Academy 'Proceedings,' 1843, vol. i., p. 410, the Rev. Dr. Todd, speaking of a stone inscribed with Oghams found in a cave at Fortwilliam, county of Kerry, now preserved in Trinity College Museum, states that several treatises on the subject of Oghams are to be found in ancient Irish MSS., and suggests the subject as suitable for a prize essay; but no Irish scholar had then the courage to enter upon their study. This apathy, in a question of much importance as bearing on our national antiquities, seems incompatible with the enthusiasm characteristic of the country.

“At the solicitation of some antiquarian friends, I have lithographed my sketches, and have much pleasure in presenting copies to the Society. I trust their publication in our 'Journal' may excite the interest of some of our learned Members conversant with the archæic forms of the language and the antiquities of Ireland, and qualified to elucidate such mysterious characters.”

The following papers were submitted to the Meeting :—



"When discovered in 1838, it contained several Human Skulls and Bones"